

people in Washington and Illinois who were mentored by Mary Bain—staff, House members, activists and advocates. I will always be grateful for her generosity in helping me when I was elected to succeed Representative Yates.

And, like so many others, I will always be grateful for her lifetime of accomplishments.

A VERMONT LESSON IN HOW TO EXPORT TO THE WORLD

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this year the Small Business Administration selected Robert Johnson of Omega Optical, in Brattleboro, Vermont, as Vermont's Small Business Exporter of the Year. His story, and the company's story, has much to tell us about how the United States can remain competitive in a global economy, and how we can create new manufacturing jobs through innovation and foresight.

Omega Optical began in 1968—in a garage. Since then, it has grown into a \$13 million company that employs over 140 employees. Omega Optical makes, and has always made, filters for optical instruments.

Robert Johnson did not set out to make a less costly filter, or a slight improvement on a previous filter. Instead, he committed himself and Omega Optical to doing research in optical thin-films, which can be used to control the flow of light. In particular, their research focused on fluorescence, the light emitted from objects illuminated by a very energetic light.

The filters that Omega Optical developed have played a major role in the burgeoning of biological science in our day. Let me cite a passage from Vennont: An Illustrated History by John Duffy and Vincent Feeney: "The sciences of fluorescence microscopy and flow cytometry, which allow for the visualization of cellular structures and the sorting and analysis of cells, were made possible by design and manufacturing developments invented at Omega. These advances set the state-of-the-art and allowed Omega not only to define the science, but for many years capture the entire market worldwide."

Omega's filters are used in not only cellular biology, but also in astronomy and in clinical medicine. Whether scientists look at the enormous spatial universe around us, or the microscopic secrets of genetics and bodily functioning, they use filters not just made, but developed, by Omega Optical.

What has made Omega so successful, in both manufacturing and the export of manufactured products? A stress on research and long-range development, not just the immediate pursuit of profit; a commitment to moving into new areas and inventing new products; and a dedicated workforce. For clearly Omega Optical shows that American workers, just like American product developers, are the best in the world, and can and do make the best and most competitive products. And by creating a 'green' production facility, their 'Delta Campus,' the company has shown that safeguarding the environment can be a major piece of a business agenda.

If we as a Nation think about research and the long-term, as Omega Optical has done,

and if we boldly build on our strengths and the capability of our workers, we can move confidently into our future.

RECOGNIZES RYAN SEADER OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Seader of West Palm Beach, Florida, an Army Private First Class soldier currently serving in Iraq.

Following his education at community college and prior to enlisting in the National Guard, Private Seader used his natural ability to fix things to start a profession in the construction field, specializing in restoring old homes.

Enlisting in the National Guard in January 2004 as a mechanic in the construction field, Private Seader was trained to work with water pumps. Following his activation, he was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey and cross trained to serve as a prison guard.

Private Seader is currently serving in company 652 while deployed in Iraq. His Company is stationed at the Abu Ghraib Prison where he is a part of the team working to demolish the facility.

While on a recent leave, Private Seader was presented with an American flag that had been flown in his honor. Ryan is a proud soldier-demonstrating his dedication to his country and the war on terror.

Private Seader's parents are also committed to helping fight the global war on terror. Mary and Rick Seader live in invernness and work to educate their local community on the need to defend the American ideal and to never give into cowardly acts by terrorists like the September 11, 2001 attack on our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Ryan Seader who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Ryan serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his Family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO BOONTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boonton Fire Department, in the Town of Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On Saturday, September 2, 2006 the good people of the Town of Boonton celebrated the Fire Company's 115th Anniversary with their annual parade and carnival.

For 115 years, the Boonton Fire Department has been protecting and serving the residents of their community and nearby towns. Featuring five companies, each with their own unique and vibrant history, this Fire Department embodies the ideas of brotherly love and

teamwork for the betterment of their communities.

Currently, the fire department, led by Fire Chief Pete Herbert, is made up entirely of volunteers, who live in or around the Town of Boonton. They are men and women who "volunteer their time to protect and educate the residents of Boonton."

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Boonton Fire Department on celebrating 115 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

IN RECOGNITION OF RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rising Star Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas on its 75th Anniversary.

The church's modest beginning began on September 13, 1931 in a local diner, when Reverend Smith Cary and a small number of members organized Rising Star Church. The church has seen the leadership of many dynamic ministers including, Reverend Smith Cary, Reverend T.H. Davis, and its present pastor, Reverend Ralph W. Emerson, Jr.

The stated vision of the Church is to be "the Worship Center that seeks to reclaim lost souls, reshape lives, rejoice in love, react to the Holy Spirit while responding to God's call". Rising Star Baptist church has exemplified their vision through growth to a congregation of over 2,500 members and progressing into a multi-ministry church. Rising Star Baptist Church continues to be an influential presence and respected contributor to the Fort Worth community and greater Tarrant County citizenry.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the Rising Star Baptist Church on their 75th anniversary and praise their dedication and service to the people of Fort Worth, Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, not only for furthering the work of the National Bar Association, providing social and professional interaction among minority attorneys but also for their work improving the protection of political and civil rights of all citizens.

Since its inception the Association has played a role in the community providing opportunities to students in its administration on scholarships, and has also awarded and recognized local leaders in the area for their hard work and diligent efforts.

The MBA is an organization that has grown to over one hundred members from diverse ethnic backgrounds and practices across